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# INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Argentina/Spain

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The following comments on Spanish-Argentine relations are attributed to Carlos Ibarguren, chief legal advisor of the Banco de la Nacion in Buenos Aires. Ibarguren, an Argentine nationalist leader, was formerly Minister of Education and is a friend of President Peron.

1. Argentine-Spanish relations are very strained at present because of the Perons' displeasure over statements made by the Spanish Embassy Inspector Jose Felix Lequerica in the United States that friendship between Spain and Argentina was motivated by economic advantages for Spain. Lequerica was formerly Spanish Ambassador to Vichy France.
2. Because of Lequerica's statements, Peron believes that Spain has deserted his "third position" and is courting Argentine favor for selfish economic reasons only.
3. Argentine-Spanish commercial relations will continue to deteriorate in view of the above, and Spain will no longer be able to obtain credit in Argentina.

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